

Dear Parents and Guardians

Events surrounding the Coronavirus have been rapidly unfolding this week. Everyone has been trying to make sense of the daily information which has been broadcast to the nation. This information requires all families to adapt their lifestyles whilst complying with new rules. We should feel that we are all in this together and that we can all make a significant difference.

We are nearing the end of the first week of school closure. In these unprecedented times, students continue to learn at home. This has required a significant adjustment to how students learn, and has required self-motivation and determination to make it work.

We have been so impressed with how our students have risen to the challenge of on-line independent learning and the adjustment to a very different school day. The volume and quality of work students are producing is truly amazing. The overwhelming majority of students, across all year groups, are keeping up with the lessons their teachers are setting them. This is an incredible and testament to the maturity and resilience of your children and young people.

We know that much of this is down to parents, and we want to thank you for the fabulous job that you are all doing. In these trying times we know that you are prioritising the learning of your sons and daughters, and by doing so, together we are going to make sure that the closing of schools will not have a detrimental effect on their education. You are doing a brilliant job. Thank you.

We also know that some families are still experiencing issues with working online and we are working hard to resolve these for you. If your child is unable to work online at any point then please encourage them to read, work on mental arithmetic or check out BBC4 as they are broadcasting programmes for students to work from at home.

Some parents have asked for advice on how to sustain motivation and engagement with learning at home. Some ideas are here, but we would love to hear from you if you have any top tips that would help other parents. You can email us on [admin@wvacademy.org](mailto:admin@wvacademy.org)

- Have some structure to the day. Find a routine which works well for your family.
- Follow the lesson timetable of a normal school day, as this is how teachers have set their work on SMHW. We do not expect students to be working outside of a normal school day.
- Have regular breaks.
- Make sure exercise and fresh air are included in the day.
- Have a space set aside for working.
- At times have siblings and parents working alongside each other.
- Encourage reading a book.
- Make sure there is a definite time to finish work.

- Encourage learning a new skill such as cooking, gardening, decorating, origami.
- Play board games, do jigsaws.

Most of all your family's health and wellbeing are the top priority, these are difficult times for everyone and we would encourage you to find ways that work for your individual circumstances.

There is a very useful **Parents' Guide to Coping with School Closure in Response to Coronavirus - March 2020**. Please use the link - [www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus](http://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus)

Bradgate Education Partnership has also issued a **Parent Fact Sheet** on how to support home learning. You might find this helpful as we move forward into the next few weeks. Please see the attachment.

We believe that communication between home and school is crucial during this time. We will continue to update you on any information we receive from the government and keep you up to date with what we are doing. We appreciate hearing from you on what is going well and how we can best support you. You can do this emailing [admin@wvacademy.org](mailto:admin@wvacademy.org)

We hope you and your families are keeping well, and we thank you for all your support with making home learning such a success.

Best wishes

**All the Staff at Wreake Valley Academy and Bradgate Sixth Form**